

What is claimed is:

1. A method for canceling an echo caused by a voice signal leaking in part from a voice signal passing through a receiving line into a transmitting line, the method comprising the steps of:

5       limiting a level of the voice signal passing through the transmitting line to a level falling in a predetermined range before the leaked voice signal is cancelled;

canceling the leaked voice signal included in the voice signal passing through the transmitting line; and

10      restoring, to an original level of the voice signal obtained before the cancellation of the leaked voice signal, a level of a voice signal undergoing the cancellation of the leaked voice signal and passing through the transmitting line.

15      2. The method of claim 2, further comprising the steps of:

determining whether or not either one of facsimile communication and communication on modems through the transmitting line is detected; and

20      if either one of facsimile communication and communication on modems is detected, stopping the cancellation of the leaked voice signal, the limitation of the level of the voice signal, and the restoration of the level of the voice signal.

25      3. An echo cancellation equipment having an echo canceller canceling an echo caused by a voice signal leaking in part from a voice

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signal passing through a receiving line into a transmitting line, comprising:

echo-canceller input level adjusting means for limiting, to a value falling in a predetermined range, a level of the voice signal passing through the transmitting line to the echo canceller; and

echo-canceller output level adjusting means for restoring, to an original level of the voice signal limited by the echo-canceller input level adjusting means, a level of a voice signal outputted from the echo canceller.

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4. The echo cancellation equipment of claim 3, further comprising

determining means for determining whether or not either one of facsimile communication and communication on modems through the transmitting line is detected; and

stopping means for stopping, if the determining means determines that either one of facsimile communication and communication on modems is detected, a canceling operation of the echo canceller, a level limiting operation of the echo-canceller input

20 level adjusting mans, and a level restoring operation of the echo-canceller output level adjusting means.